



ALEXANDRIA, VA.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1871.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

To show the very age and beauty of the Times.

Two colored graduates of Howard University, District of Columbia, yesterday, applied to the Superior Court, in New Orleans, for admission to the bar. Their application was refused, on the ground that although parties who have practiced before the Supreme Court of any State can be admitted, upon motion before the Court, yet these candidates, coming from a Territory, do not come within the letter of the law, and will have to pass an examination before a committee appointed by the Supreme Court before they can be admitted to practice.

The store of Mr. G. S. Garrett, on the Georgetown Division of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, near Muddy Run, was destroyed by fire on Monday morning, about 3 o'clock, losing almost the entire stock of goods contained in the building. Loss about \$3,500. Insured for \$1,500. Supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

The colored man who attempted to rob the residence of Mrs. Sarocco, in Baltimore, on Wednesday evening, and almost murdered the lady in making his escape from the house, was arrested yesterday, and committed to jail for trial in the Criminal Court. He was formerly employed by the family. He acknowledges his guilt.

Collector Wallace, of the third South Carolina district, reports to the internal revenue bureau that one of his deputies, while making a seizure of contraband whiskey, near Greenville, on the 20th inst., was severely assaulted, and so seriously injured that his life was despaired of.

Judge Blatchford is determined that the Erie Ring shall not show the same contempt for the U. S. judicial tribunals that they have manifested in dealing with the State Courts. Yesterday he issued an order designed to oblige Jay Gould to produce the books of the Company in the Court.

It is estimated that the number of persons that will be thrown out of employment on the 1st proximo, by reason of the removal of the work of manufacturing the Government securities from Washington to New York, will reach near 250 males and females.

A very severe tornado passed over the lower section of St. Mary's county, Md., on Thursday evening of last week, leaving ruin and destruction in its track. The first point of attack was at Fairfield, the residence of James Scofield, of St. Inigo's district.

Judge Dibble, in New Orleans, yesterday, gave Sheriff Savitree, colored, \$1,000 in a suit in the Eighth District Court, against the proprietors of the Bank Saloon for \$10,000 damages, for refusing to furnish him refreshments on account of color.

A Catholic priest transmits from San Francisco the sum of \$250 to the United States Treasury, to be placed to the credit of the conscience fund, the same having been received by him in the confessional for restitution to the United States government.

A fight took place yesterday between two colored outlaws in Robeson county, N. C., and a party of citizens under command of the Sheriff, in which two of the Sheriff's posse were killed and one severely wounded.

Dr. Albion Cobb, principal of an Academy at Wilton, Maine, was arrested yesterday morning, charged with deserting his wife and four children, and eloping with a young lady pupil, who was an invalid under his charge.

The Cumberland Daily News claims for Mr. W. W. Shriver, of Wheeling, West Virginia, the credit of originating and executing the plan of transferring the black bass, now so abundant from the Ohio to the Potomac.

An attempted fraud on the Government by the forgery of bounty claims to the extent of a million of dollars has been discovered in New York. One of the criminals who was arrested has turned State's evidence.

Mrs. Fair, the San Francisco murderess, will not be sentenced for a month yet. Her counsel have numerous pretexts for a new trial, and there are probably to be many developments yet to come in this case.

The fifty-fifth session of the Baltimore Annual Conference of the African M. E. Church, commenced at Easton, Md., on Wednesday, Bishop Wayman presiding.

During the first three months of the present year the coinage of specie money at the U. S. Mints amounted to nearly seven millions of dollars.

Dr. David C. Beck, a physician of Goshen, Ind., died last Friday evening from an overdose of chloral, the new medicine that is extensively used for producing sleep.

Subscriptions for the relief of the widow of John Brown, of Harper's Ferry fame, are now being taken up in Washington.

IMPORTANT DECISION.—An important decision was announced by Judge Turner, of Rockingham Circuit, at the April term of the Circuit Court for that county. It was a case growing out of the sequestration of a foreign creditor's property by the Confederate States authorities during the war, and was argued at length, and with great ability for three days by Col. R. W. Johnston, for the complainant, and J. N. Liggitt, esq., for the defendant, at the September term, 1870, of the Rockingham Circuit Court.

It was an action of Williams & Arnest, merchants of Philadelphia, against George Bruffy, administrator, for a debt of \$257.57, contracted March 12, 1861, during said Bruffy's lifetime and payable 12th September, 1861. Bruffy being a citizen of Virginia, Bruffy's administrator paid the money over to the sequestrator under the Confederate States government. Judge Turner decided as follows: "It was a duty which the citizen of the Confederate States owed to the de facto government, therefore to acquiesce in the execution of the sequestration or confiscation laws. Not only so, but they were compelled by coercive provisions to do so. The confiscation in this case was complete, by competent authority, could not have been prevented by the debtor, and there was nothing in the conclusion of the war to change the fact or effect of confiscation." *Valley Virginia.*

O. A. & M. R. R.—We are gratified to state that the arrangements for the accommodation of the trade and travel over the Manassas branch of the O. A. & M. R. R., are to be kept up to the requirements of the times and the progressive spirit of the age. Every advantage enjoyed by the people along the main line of the road, will be accorded to the people along the Manassas branch. A new Conductor's car, for the accommodation of the local travel by the freight line, will be put upon the track in a few days. In this car passengers can travel very comfortably, as it will be fitted up with all the conveniences and appliances of the passenger coaches. The schedule for the freight train will also be slightly changed, which will accommodate a large number of persons who may wish to come to Harrisonburg to court. The train will come to Harrisonburg on Monday morning instead of Sunday, thus enabling passengers to get here by 8 o'clock, a. m., and return by the 10 o'clock p. m. train. The people, we are sure, will appreciate these efforts of the Superintendent of the road to furnish every possible advantage and convenience to those who travel over it. *Rockingham Register.*

COUNTERFEITS.—The new bogus five cent nickels, of which there are a large number in circulation, can be detected by an inspection of the motto, "In God we Trust," which is much larger in the counterfeit than in the genuine. The yellow color of the counterfeit, caused by the presence of zinc, is also easily noticeable.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

We mentioned yesterday, the escape of the notorious Lucien Board, the horse thief, from the jail in Richmond. He, and two others in the same cell, by means of a plank, taken from the floor of their cell, succeeded in forcing both the door of their cell and the main door of the jail. This done, they then forced open the iron grating in front of the main door, which separated the cell-yard from the yard of the main building, and they then scaled the outer wall. Capt. Captain, who was on duty at the gate, fired on them as they were in the act of getting over the wall, but it being quite dark, failed to hit either of them.

On Monday evening last, the well-known Mountain House, about forty miles from Lynchburg, on the Virginia & Tennessee railroad, caught fire from the sparks from the locomotive of a freight train, and was entirely consumed, with a considerable portion of the furniture. It was a neat and well arranged hotel, and cost not less than \$9,000.

The Staunton Virginian mentions a conversation held with an intelligent citizen of Jefferson county, W. Va., by which the editor learned that the proprietors of the paper mill at Hallowtown had realized over seventy per cent. of their whole investment. We believe this mill has been in operation about one year and the capital invested is \$20,000.

Judge Turner, of the Circuit Court, of Rockingham, decided on Tuesday last that the law known as the Homestead bill, does not apply to judgment liens acquired previous to the war. In other words, the Homestead will not avail in the case of a judgment lien which existed previous to the war.

The dwelling house of Mr. Duke, at the Virginia State Works, about seven miles from Charlottesville, was entirely consumed by fire on Tuesday last, about 3 o'clock p. m. The fire caught from the cooking stove. About half the furniture and all of Mr. Duke's private and important papers were destroyed.

At the late meeting of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad Company, at Charlestown, West Va., Herman P. Haupt, chief engineer of the company, pronounced the iron resources of Virginia along the proposed route of the road, superior to those of Pennsylvania.

Since the incorporation of Strasburg, the citizens have manifested considerable interest in local improvements. They propose constructing sidewalks along their streets, some of which are completed and others under way.

At Petersburg, on Wednesday night, the tobacco factory of Julius Liebert was burned, with its contents; insurance \$3,000 in the Pacific of San Francisco; and \$2,000 in the Liverpool, London and Globe.

The District council of the Tunker Church of the Shenandoah Valley will be held at Cedar Grove, near New Market, on the first Friday and Saturday in May, the 5th and 6th days of the month.

On the evening of the 24th instant the residence of Capt. Wm. M. Peyton, of Albemarle county, was entirely consumed. The fire originated from a spark falling on the roof.

A number of sheep were recently killed by dogs for Mr. Cross, and Messrs. Wilson and Smith near Woodstock.

Mr. Spicer's house, in Petersburg, was not burned as it was reported to be. The fire occurred near his house.

The State Council of Virginia Friends of Temperance met at Culpeper on the 25th.

LEGISLATIVE CORRECTION.—From the New Orleans Bee, April 22. A very remarkable case, which has been tried in the Eighth District Court, was submitted to Judge Dibble yesterday. The plaintiff is William C. Little, holder of a draft drawn by E. H. Angomar, upon a person named Barrett, for \$300, which Barrett had accepted. The draft was not paid, however, and plaintiff, who avers that it came to him, in the course of business, from a member of the State Senate, sued Angomar and Barrett for the amount.

The plea of the defence was that no valuable consideration was given for the draft, and that it was issued for an immoral purpose, viz: to bribe a member of the Legislature.

From the testimony taken the following facts appear: E. H. Angomar, above mentioned, and Charles Izard were Special Leave Commissioners of the State, appointed by the Governor. They sought to procure the passage of a bill through the General Assembly, at the session of 1870, to appropriate a large amount from the State Treasury, as compensation for their services and to pay their expenses. To accomplish the passage of the bill they made arrangements to purchase fifteen Senators and nineteen Representatives.

They incurred obligations to the amount of \$9,000. The draft which was the subject of litigation was one of these obligations. According to Angomar's evidence, Senators George H. Braghton—to use the phraseology of these people—was the "stakeholder" for the Senate—that is, the bribes were put in his possession to be distributed when the bill passed. Angomar says, in his testimony, that he asked Senator Braghton for a receipt, but he refused to give one, observing that "that would be compromising himself too much."

We find by reference to the journal of the Senate that the bill passed that body on the 25th February, 1870, by a vote of 17 to 7.

The public will, no doubt, await the decision of the Court upon this remarkable case with whetted curiosity. Having been informed by parties concerned in the case that among the evidence is filed a list of the names of the Senators and Representatives, the purchase of whose votes was provided for, we endeavored to procure a copy of the lists, but were refused it, the Court having left instructions that the paper should not be exhibited to reporters.

RAID UPON A LIQUOR SELLER.—In a neighboring town, a few weeks ago, a lady whose husband was unfortunately addicted to the habit of drinking, took it upon herself to visit the place where her liege lord got the means of his ruin, for the purpose of putting a stop to his sale so far as her family was concerned. She went into the bar-room with a stick in her hand, and using it with vigor upon the head and shoulders of the dealer in liquor, soon caused him to beat a retreat. She then broke a decanter on the counter, smashed the lamp overhead, in her wrath and fury knocked the windows, sash and all out of the room, and played smash generally. A number of gentlemen who were in the bar-room at the time were fired in good order, seemingly apprehensive that their turn might come next. The injured wife and mother, after leaving the lion in his den, and wreaking her vengeance upon the implements of his trade, quietly retired to her home, no one offering any resistance to her. The strangest part of the whole story is yet to be told: The conduct of this plucky woman was endorsed by the people of the town generally, so that no legal steps were taken to punish this infraction of a liquor-seller's rights. We mention no names, lest it should bring U. S. troops to look after one of the Southern female K. K.'s. *Rockingham Register.*

COUNTERFEITS.—The new bogus five cent nickels, of which there are a large number in circulation, can be detected by an inspection of the motto, "In God we Trust," which is much larger in the counterfeit than in the genuine. The yellow color of the counterfeit, caused by the presence of zinc, is also easily noticeable.

The Ku-Klux Law.

The law in question where the parties reside within the State for the first time gives the courts of the United States jurisdiction in cases of acts of violence to the persons or property of individuals. It authorizes the District and Circuit Court of the Federal Government to try individuals for murder, arson, assaults, robbery, and similar crimes.

The only limitations are that the act of violence shall have been committed "for the purpose of depriving" the party injured of "the equal protection of the laws," and that more than one person shall be implicated in the outrage. The whole law hinges on the word "conspiracy," and on the meaning of the phrase "for the purpose of depriving parties of the equal protection of the laws." Any agreement between two or more parties "to deprive any person of the equal protection of the laws," is a "conspiracy" within the meaning of the statute, and subjects the parties so offending to the penalties thereof. If A and B conspire to beat C, with the intent named in the statute, it is a violation of the second section, and of that clause in the fourth section which declares that "no State shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." This seems absurd, but it is precisely the point of the bill—or of the second section. There is a cloud of words but this is the goal aimed at, and reached.

All crimes and acts of violence, of whatever character, committed by two or more persons, acting together or in concert, are cognizable under this act in the Federal courts, provided the intent in question is proved. And we are of the opinion that, in the execution of the law, it will only be necessary to prove the fact of the outrage, and that the jury will be instructed to infer the "purpose" as a necessary accompaniment of the act. All crimes, committed by two persons acting together, either as principals or accessories before the fact, may be swept within the terms of the statute by the jury or the court. If a party of men make an assault on a Republican, the mere fact of the assault will be construed to bring the case within the meaning of the statute, as it may be very plausibly urged that he was thereby "deprived of the equal protection of the laws," and that his assailants could not have beaten him without having the purpose of infringing his rights.

In other words, all the criminal law of the States, subject to our qualification as above given, is now justiciable in the Federal courts. This is not all: the party accused has no right of appeal from either the District or Circuit Court, except in the case where two judges may be sitting in the Circuit Court, and may differ on any particular question, and may, unless they please to "certify," their difference of opinion. Nor is this all: the Federal courts have in all these cases a civil as well as a criminal jurisdiction, the parties injured having a right to institute a civil action for damages, in addition to the criminal prosecution.

Note, moreover, carefully the language, "to deprive any person of the equal protection of the laws." Any "conspiracy" to "deprive any person of the equal protection of the laws" subjects a person to the terrible penalties of this bill. And where do the terms of this language stop? The members of a Typographical Union, or of any Trade-Union, may be brought within the terms of this clause; and so may the members of a Temperance Society, whose constant effort it is to destroy the liquor traffic.

The third section of this law authorizes the President, in all cases of insurrection, domestic violence, unlawful combinations, or conspiracies in any State, whereby any portion of the people are deprived of their rights and immunities as citizens, and when such State may neglect to protect them, to employ the army, navy, and militia to restore order. There is no shadow or authority for this in the Constitution. The President can only call out the militia to suppress insurrections, and by this act he is empowered to employ the army and navy to suppress a conspiracy to steal a hog or beat a freedman. It is true he can use the Federal troops to put down "domestic violence," but he is invited, as the Constitution directs, but this act leaves him to interpose at his pleasure if there is a street fight.

The fourth section is the one authorizing the President to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus*, until the end of the next session of Congress; whenever he judges that the public safety requires it. This Constitution confers the right to suspend this writ to cases of "rebellion" or "invasion," and vests the exercise of the power in Congress. The present act vests the power in the Executive, and pretends that "the unlawful combinations" or "conspiracies" referred to in the law constitute a "rebellion"—as if in the days of Dick Turpin or Jack Sheppard, when there were highwaymen on every head, Parliament had declared the existence of a Rebellion in England!

The fifth section provides that no one shall aid a jury who in the judgment of the court, shall have been "pry to or cognizant of any conspiracy," and the court is authorized to administer to such person an oath to the effect that he has never counseled, or advised, or aided any such combination.

The sixth section provides that every person knowing of the purpose to commit an outrage, and neglecting, if able, to prevent the same, shall be liable, if such outrage is perpetrated, in damages to the parties injured. *Rich. Eng.*

Railroad Movements in Virginia &c.

The Richmond Dispatch of yesterday gives the following interesting resume of railroad movements in Virginia and North Carolina:

We understand that engineers are surveying a line for a railway from Mathias Point, on the Potomac, in King George county, to this city. This point is immediately opposite Pope's creek, on the Maryland side, the terminal point of the Baltimore and Potomac Railway, now in course of construction by a Company of which Governor Bowie is or was President.

It is assumed, and correctly, that this route from Baltimore to Richmond is the shortest and most direct that can be made, but the ferry at Mathias Point will be some drawback to the speed with which it can be travelled. The ferry is at a point that will seldom be interrupted by ice, probably not once in five years.

It is understood that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which got a charter last winter to build a road from this city to Alexandria, is the real builder of the Maryland road, as well as the projector of its continuation through Virginia. Whether that Company will become the purchaser of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad or not is problematical. It should be that road the line crossing at Mathias Point, by striking the Fredericksburg line near Bowling Green, (Caroline), will be as straight as an arrow.

Should it not be, there is good reason to believe the road from Alexandria to Richmond will be built by it, in which event the road from this city to Alexandria, and the road from Alexandria to Richmond, will connect with it at some point in Caroline. This will give travel from Richmond two routes to Baltimore all the way, and three from the connecting point of the Mathias Point line in Caroline.

The road through Maryland to Pope's creek will be graded by the 1st of June, and soon thereafter equipped. Should the Company purchase the Fredericksburg Road it will be easy to have the all-rail line by the lower Maryland route this year.

Certainly there will be great railroad changes in Virginia in the next twelve or eighteen months. Besides the anticipated changes above referred to, there are active movements in the Valley. The Pennsylvania Railway is projecting a line along the Valley to Salem, and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad is already stretching its arms along the same rich region of country, having its connected lines already

from Alexandria, and from Harper's Ferry to Harrisonburg. There is a pause at this point. The proposed continuation, under the name of the Valley Railroad, over which young Mr. Garrett is President—and which is the special enterprise of "Mike Harman"—hangs fire for the want of county subscriptions. The people of Lexington took a flirt at it a short time since, as our readers know, and deputized a committee to sound Mr. Garrett the elder, and another to commune with Mr. Huntington, to ascertain which would help their road out of the mire, or which would give the best terms. So, with two strings to their bow, will hardly fail.

The Danville Road, which is getting thawed, is looking for its new links, giving it a straight line to Atlanta, Ga., and shortening the distance between New York and the Gulf at least 150 miles.

But the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company is also looking down into the North Star. A recent movement about the chartered line from Danville to Statesville, N. C., looks as though a little of the Baltimore steam is at work there.

It is supposed that the Pennsylvania Company will also soon appear in the North Carolina arena, and will give a new impulse to rail-roading down there.

General Mahone is understood to be arranging matters with a view to the construction of the Cumberland Gap Road, which opens a new route to Kentucky.

Finally, our sure reliance, the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Company, is achieving wonders in the way of hastening the completion of their railroad to Richmond. And what is especially interesting in addition is the energetic movement in both Ohio and Kentucky in the matter of establishing connecting roads between the terminals of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad and Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis and other great Western cities. These connecting lines will be completed probably as soon as the great road itself will be finished, which will be in July or August, 1872.

Here are, indeed, great railroad movements. They are most cheering to our people. What they want is rapid transit and low fares, and no obstruction to trade. They are as able to take care of themselves as other people, and neither desire nor ask for anything but equality—the same facilitated intercourse that other people have, and like liberal rates of transportation.

CURIOUS.—It is a little singular that there are always more colored people to be seen at the time of registration and voting, than upon any other occasion. They are always on hand to put in their votes, but vanish into thin air when the tax collector comes round. For example, a neighboring city has 950 registered voters, but the census marshal, "truly told," can find only 700, and the assessors only 300. It will thus be seen that there are nearly 200 colored men, who never put in an appearance, except to register and vote, and the question very naturally arises, what becomes of them after the election?

What happens in other cities may also happen here, and we advise our people to see to it that nameless voters, with no real habitation, are not fooled upon us in the approaching registration. *—Lynch. Rep.*

IRON STEAMSHIP BUILDING IN RICHMOND.—The building of iron steamships is a new and important Richmond manufacture, but we doubt if the Dispatch if one in five hundred of our citizens is aware that such a thing is going on here. The fact is that for several months past preparations for this work have been in progress, and at this time the Virginia Steamship and Packet Company, by which the enterprise is conducted, has completed and equipped a large and rapid steamer, and there is already on the ways an iron-hulled monster rapidly assuming the form of a ship. It is proposed to equip her with engines, which according to plans now in possession of the constructor, will give her a speed of twelve knots an hour. The total cost of the steamer when completed will be about \$180,000. Register 1622 tons.

The most favorable accounts of the wheat crop continue to reach us from all parts of the country.

As Act in reference to the Alexandria and Fredericksburg Railway Company.

1. Be it enacted by the City of Alexandria, That the Alexandria and Fredericksburg Railway Company be, and is hereby, authorized and empowered to introduce, construct, and use a single track railway from or near the Corporation line at Hood's run, according to the map exhibited to the Council by the engineer of the road, into and along Fayette street to the northern limits of the Corporation of Alexandria, and to make all necessary sidings and turnouts, connecting the main line of said railway with the Potomac and freight depot, and all other facilities of said company; Provided, however, that the passenger and freight depot buildings of said company shall not be erected further west than Fayette street or bounding thereon; and said company shall have the right to construct a new and substantial building, to be known as the freight depot, to be situated on the lot of the Corporation of Alexandria, between the lot of the Corporation of Alexandria, and the lot of the Corporation of Alexandria, and to make all necessary sidings and turnouts, connecting the main line of said railway with the Potomac and freight depot, and all other facilities of said company; 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